

Copyright protection should not be required. As each new technology has come into being, there has been a steady erosion of existing abilities. Fair use has lately taken a severe beating and has almost been totally eradicated. This country has most prospered when its people have been the most free. Oligopolies have managed to dictate the laws of the land for only their benefit, and damn the rest of the American people. Is it any wonder why we are losing our edge to the rest of the world? The 21st century is going to be all about intellectual capital. The oligopolies have managed to extend copyrights so that they effectively never expire in our lifetime. Disney owns the copyrights to IP that was developed in the 1920's and that IP won't get into the public domain until 2119. 199 years for a copyright is no longer fair - its excessive. These companies have a duty to contribute to the social good, yet they have twisted the laws of the land so that they are exempt from having to contribute. Companies should profit from their creations and investments, but this current one-way street is a sure-fire way for our society to die a slow death. Now they want to obtain further copyright protections that don't exist in other media, and want to futher remove from contributing to the social good (fair use). This is ridiculous. This should not be allowed to happen. Should these oligopolies refuse to transmit in the HDTV format, the FCC should provide a period of time when companies can transition. Past that time, those who have not converted, should lose their licenses and not be able to transmit. This is a capitalist society and should a vacuum be created by these companies not transmitting, then it will be filled in by others. Yes, there will be some disruption to the market, but that is why capitalism works. It awards death to those that can't adapt to the new market conditions and resources are redeployed to those that can. The government is responsible for providing a fair environment. It should not be chosing who lives or dies, that the market's job.